

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

With the claim amendments discussed below, amended and original claims 1-10 remain in the application.

1. (previously allowed) The method of braiding an article of clothing comprising the steps of:

providing an article of clothing with outer surfaces;

cutting a plurality of slits in one of the outer surfaces so as to form a row of adjacently aligned braidable segments between the slits;

pulling the second segment in the row of segments underneath the adjacent first segment in the row;

pulling the second segment in the row over the adjacent first segment, so that the second segment forms a first loop;

pulling the third segment in the row substantially through the first loop of the second segment so that the third segment forms a second loop;

pulling the fourth segment in the row substantially through the second loop of the third segment so that the fourth segment forms a third loop;

sequentially pulling each subsequent segment in the row substantially through the loop formed by its respective preceding segment in the row, forming a braid along the outer surface;

securing the last segment in the row to maintain the segments on the outer surface in the braid which is formed.

2. (previously allowed) The method as in claim 1 comprising the further steps of:
cutting a plurality of slits in a second outer surface of the article of clothing so as to form a second row of adjacently aligned braidable segments between the slits;

pulling the second segment in the second row of segments underneath the adjacent first segment in the row;

pulling the second segment in the second row over the adjacent first segment, so that the second segment forms a first loop;

pulling the third segment in the second row substantially through the first loop of the second segment so that the third segment forms a second loop;

pulling the fourth segment in the second row substantially through the second loop of the third segment so that the fourth segment forms a third loop;

sequentially pulling each subsequent segment in the second row substantially through the loop formed by its respective preceding segment in the row, forming a braid along the second outer surface;

securing the last segment in the second row to maintain the segments on the second outer surface in the braid which is formed.

3. (previously allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein the article of clothing comprises a stretchable material.

4. (currently amended) An article of clothing with outer surfaces, said article of clothing comprising a first row of a plurality of aligned, unitary looped segments formed from the clothing and, each segment being separately and individually formed from and emanating from an outer surface of the clothing, each constituting a separate and independent segment, the row extending along an outer surface of the clothing, the second looped segment in the row being positioned substantially over the adjacent first segment in the row, the third looped segment in the row being positioned substantially through and over the second looped segment, the fourth looped segment in the row being positioned substantially through and over the third looped segment, and each of the following looped segments in the plurality of aligned looped

segments being positioned substantially through and over each of its respective proceeding looped segment in the row, the plurality of looped segments forming a braid along an outer surface.

5. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 4 further comprising means to secure the last looped segment in the row to maintain the plurality of aligned looped segments along the outer surface of the clothing.

6. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 4 further comprising a second row of a plurality of aligned looped segments formed from the clothing and extending along a second outer surface of the clothing, the second looped segment in the second row being positioned substantially over the adjacent first segment in the row, the third looped segment in the second row being positioned substantially through and over the second looped segment, the fourth looped segment in the second row being positioned substantially through and over the third looped segment, and each of the following looped segments in the plurality of aligned looped segments being positioned substantially through and over each of its respective proceeding looped segment in the second row.

7. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 6 further comprising means to secure the last looped segment in the second row to maintain the plurality of looped segments along the second outer surface of the clothing.

8. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 4 wherein the article of clothing is a shirt.

9. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 6 wherein the article of clothing is a shirt with two outer surfaces, one outer surface comprising the first row of a plurality of aligned looped segments and the second outer surface comprising the second row of a plurality of aligned looped segments.

10. (original) The article of clothing as in claim 4 wherein the clothing comprises a stretchable material.